

Dear Education Committee Members,

We strongly support this bill it will much needed clarification of the law along with including "cyber bullying". We also support the statewide safe school resource network , which will provide training and resource to schools, but we would also like it to include resources for parents and organizations working with youth.

**S.B. 1138**, *An Act Concerning the Strengthening of School Bullying Laws*, would take important steps to improve school climate in public schools.

- the "bullying" definition will be amended to (1) add cyberbullying, (2) clarify what constitutes bullying, and (3) eliminate the "during the school year" phrase in the current definition that reportedly causes some school officials to "wipe the slate clean" and ignore bullying patterns that began before the current school year. [However, the proposed definition does not include "enumerated categories" recommended by the U.S. Department of Education to clarify that bullying includes illegal acts of harassment based on actual or perceived characteristics of students.]
- a statewide safe school resource network will provide training and resources to schools, and analyze bullying data

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World Youth Day is May 6th 2011

STOP THE VIOLENCE WITH PEACE